

Pennington County Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

Date August 23, 2011

Time 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Location Mystic Ranger District Office
8221 South Highway 16
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Contact Lisa Sanders
Support Services Specialist, Mystic Ranger District
605-716-2059

This was the sixth meeting for the Pennington County Resource Advisory Committee.

RAC Members present – Don Hausle, Ken Edel, Jim Glines, Jerry Cole, Skip Tillisch, Deb Black, Dan Conrad, Lori Litzen, Quintin LaGrande,, Patrick Brondos, Danielle Wiebers, Ervin Berg, Patty Brown

RAC Members not present – Dirk Gustin, Carson Engelskirger, Michael Verchio

Forest Service – Robert J. Thompson, Lisa Sanders

Public – none

Agenda:

- All recommended projects (to date) from the Advisory Committee have been approved by the Forest Supervisor.
- **Motorized Trail Development** – this project was tabled at the July 26th meeting pending further information and discussion.
Description - The Forest Travel Management Plan designated numerous motorized trailhead parking areas, located in proximity to concentrations of trails, in order to provide trail users an organized, identifiable, and safe area to park when accessing the trail system. Currently, parking at undeveloped trailheads is disorganized and inefficient to accommodate multiple vehicles, especially those who utilize trailers. These areas are not currently protected from vehicle impacts, and with the anticipated increase in use, natural resources such as soil and water may be impacted. This project would utilize volunteers to construct buck-and-rail fencing around several (3-5) parking areas. Informational kiosks have already been constructed by the National Guard at several trailheads, and the areas would be cleared, leveled, and graveled prior to fence construction. One trailhead (Victoria) has been completed to date.
Project Goal - Fencing and the associated leveling/gravelling will provide a clear delineation of parking areas and result in safe and more orderly parking for motorized trail users. This will protect soil and water at the parking locations by limiting rutting and runoff, and also protect adjacent natural resources from indiscriminate vehicle use and parking.
Discussion as to whether the use of buck and rail fencing is best option (longevity purposes) for trailhead boundaries – versus boulders. After review, the stockpiled rocks available for use in the Beretta Road area are not large enough for use in the trailheads. Use of buck and rail fencing is more aesthetically pleasing and allows for greater opportunities for volunteers to get involved and help out – it is “do-able”. Past

experience shows that the public seems to respect the fences. Life expectancy of treated wood for the buck and rail fences is approximately twenty years. Trailheads will be developed and located on trails that are currently open under the Travel Management Plan.

Project recommended for approval by the committee. Title II funds amount - \$16,800.

- Deerfield Reservoir – Dutchman Cove Ramp – Presenter – Ken Edel
Description - The boat ramp would replace a temporary articulated concrete block boat ramp. The current temporary ramp can cause problems for boat trailers with small tires entering and leaving the lake. Boat trailer tires can drop between the articulated concrete blocks, causing trailer tires to be damaged. Remove and stockpile existing articulated concrete block ramp. Install a single lane pre cast plank ramp at a 12% grade. Construct a 30'x35' approach section to match the existing grade.
Project Goal - Create greater angling opportunity and safer boating access on Deerfield Reservoir. Current ramp is old and presents hazards to the boaters. South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks is willing to partner on this project. Deerfield Reservoir has great potential for additional use; it is important to make needed improvements to our recreation areas.
Note: This is the final project for review and discussion by the committee.
Project recommended for approval by the committee. Title II funds amount - \$49,790.
- Decision by committee that remaining Title II funds will be routed to the Sheridan Lake 385 Fishing Access project, to upgrade the asphalt to concrete. Concrete is more durable, and will last much longer than asphalt.
- Decision by committee that any money not expended on other approved projects will be first be routed to the Sheridan Lake 385 Fishing Access project, to upgrade the asphalt to concrete. Beyond the 385 Fishing Access project, available (excess) funds will be used on other projects approved by the committee.
- A big THANK-YOU from the Forest and Bob Thompson, District Ranger, to all the members for their participation, time and hard work on the committee. Your contributions to the success of the RAC are greatly appreciated! We will continue to update the committee on the progress made on the recommended projects via email.
- Schedule Future Meetings – All proposals have been reviewed and discussed. Recommended projects have been forwarded to the Forest Supervisor for approval. There are no further meetings currently scheduled for the Resource Advisory Committee.

Note: At this time, it is unclear whether the "Secure Rural School" legislation will be reauthorized by Congress. If the bill is reauthorized, we will recommend the current group continues as the committee, if they so desire.

Handouts – Project Proposal forms: Deerfield Reservoir – Dutchman Cove Ramp